

HELLO AGAIN

VOL. 37 No. 3

MAY – JUN, 2006

AS OF JULY 1: Our new address is **27436 Desert Rose Ct., Leesburg, FL 34748;**

Phone: 352-728-6731; FAX: 352-326-2506

A PERSONAL NOTE: If anyone wants information in HA, please email me the exact wording if you can. I can then paste it right in the newsletter. Of course I will accept information in regular mail from everyone else.

We lost a great fan of OTR; Harold Zeigler died on April 2 at the age of 72; he was very generous with his time, attending many of the conventions around the country.

I hope the July HA gets out on time since it has the convention Flyer. If everything goes smoothly, it should.

THIRD REVISED ULTIMATE HISTORY: Just a reminder that this book was originally written in 1992 and is the first and original book listing Network radio programming and the shows that are in circulation.

The 2005 “3rd Revised Ultimate History” is \$52 including P&H. If you bought any of my earlier editions, the cost is \$42 including P&H. Please send new information when you can for the first supplement. I will need the information by October 1, 2006.

CONVENTION 2006: This is our 31st convention. Dates are Oct 19 - 22, 2006 at the Holiday Inn, Newark, NJ. Our web site will keep you up to date. Note new web site:
<<http://www.fotr.net>>

CONVENTION 2005: 2005 Convention booklets are available for \$2.00 including P&H. There are many guests bios and pictures. A special 30th anniversary booklet was also printed with articles and pictures. Cost of this is also \$2.00 including P&H.

All of the sessions were video recorded by Satellite Media Production. You may order them as a complete set or by individual sessions. Please contact Fred Berney at Satellite Media Production, P.O. Box 638, Walkersville, MD 21793-0638. Phone 800-747-0856. Email: fsberney@verizon.net.

Also Ellen and Fred Berney prepared 2 DVD's of the past 30 conventions. Cost is \$20 plus \$5.00 P&H. Send to Satellite Media Productions.

SCRIPT CONTEST 2006

The 13th Annual FOTR Script-Writing contest is now open. This year we are looking for a warm (half-hour) family comedy (no small children, please – teenagers are OK). Create a new, original family (plus other characters if you like). Please limit the cast to 6 or 7 (minor parts can be doubled). The story should be set in the 30's, 40's, or 50's.

The usual format includes a short opening, middle and closing commercial – either for a product you create or one that existed in the days of OTR. The script must be ready to produce – typed in 10 point or larger typeface with all sound cues included.

The First Prize is \$200.00 and the show will be performed at the FOTR Convention in 2007.

The second prizewinner will receive a prize of \$100.00 but the script will not be produced.

Scripts must be submitted by August 31, 2006. Send them to: Dave Zwengler, 319 Plymouth Road, North Brunswick NJ 08902

Three experienced judges from our steering committee will pick the winning scripts. Suggestions for improvements will be sent to those who do not win. For a primer on the preferred page format send a SASE to Mr. Zwengler.

Elmira Little Theater

Under the direction of Gary Yoggy, ELMIRA LITTLE THEATRE presented their 19th annual "Visit to the Golden Age of Radio" to sold out houses at all performances, March 31 and April 1 in Elmira, NY. Special guests this year were Rosemary Rice and Will Hutchins who appeared in recreations of THE ADVENTURES OF OZZIE AND HARRIET, I REMEMBER MAMA, HAVE GUN WILL TRAVEL and ELLERY QUEEN. For the first time a completely original radio drama was also presented written by a local actor, Jerry Holleran. It dramatized the true story of Eddie O'Hare, World War II fighter pilot a la CAVALCADE OF AMERICA style. Sound effects were developed by Bart Curtis. Plans are already under way for next year's 20th presentation which is scheduled for late January.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED: A complete list of publications mentioned with addresses, contact people, etc. is one of the introductory pages in my current Ultimate History. It is also part of a small package mailed with your first Hello Again. If you don't have one, email me for it and I will email it to you. If you don't have email, please send me a SASE for it...**Aircheck**, Feb; article about Duffy's Tavern...**Apr**; article about Rhoda Williams...**Jot 'em Down Journal**, Spring; 70 years of Lum and Abner...**SPERDVAC Radiogram**, April; article about Rhoda Williams.. **Chattanooga Airwaves**, Mar – Apr; articles about Fred Gwynne; Nashville on Network Radio...**Illustrated Press**, April; articles about Frank Lovejoy; Radio Broadcast Admission Tickets...**May**; article about Radio Broadcast Admission Tickets...**Return With us Now**, April; article about Jack Benny turning 40...**May**; OTR Moments, Top 10 by Elizabeth McLeod...**On the Air**, Jan – Mar; articles about the Lone Ranger; The Lone Ranger on Radio; Aunt Sammy's Radio Recipes...**Radio Recall**, April; articles about Mutual's Soap Operas; the Reuse of Radio Scripts on the Radio...**RCA Newsletter**, April; articles about Carmel Quinn; Kay Kyser's Mystery Broadcast...**The Jack Benny Times**; May – Aug; Much info about Jack Benny...**Tradition**, Mar – Apr; article about Johnny Cash...**OTR Digest**, spring; articles about Radio Researchers; Fran Striker; The Andrews Sisters.

BOOKS: (Most books can also be purchased at <www.lofcom.com/nostalgia/books/>, <Amazon.com> or <Barnesandnoble.com>. **Greenwood Publishing Group** (Box 5007, Westport, CT 06881) has published many bio-bibliographies in the performing arts. James Robert Parish is the series editor. Over 80 have been published. For a list or to order call 1-800-225-5800 or 1-203-226-3571...Many books are from **McFarland** ; 1-800-253-2187; Web (www.mcfarlandpub.com) and **Bear Manor Media**, Box 750, Boalsburg, PA 16827 <Bearmanormedia.com>...A made a mistake in the address of A Resource Guide to the Golden Age of Radio. It should read **Bookhunter Press** in Yorktown Heights.

2 books from Bear Manor Media; 1. **The Old-time Television Trivia Book** by good friend Mel Simons, 2006, \$14.95; much trivia plus many unseen photographs...2. **It's That Time Again - 3**; Even More New Stories of Old-time Radio; edited by Jim Harmon; 2006; \$15.00. 18 original stories of unrelated OTR characters meeting each other. Written by various OTR fans. For Instance, the first story is about Jack Armstrong meeting Tom Mix.

From McFarland; **The Daytime Serials of Television** by Jim Cox; 2006; 232 pages; \$49.95; More than 40 programs are examined in detail...**Laura Leff** has just written **39 Forever Second Edition, Volume 2**. I challenge anyone to find any information not included. 580 pages of everything you can think of. It covers the radio programs from October 1942 – May 1955; Cost is \$40. If you didn't get Volume One (1932 – 1942), the 2 books are \$75. You can use Pay Pal with your credit card or send a check or MO to IJBFC - 39 Forever II, Box 11288, Piedmont, CA 94611...**Gunsmoke, The Myth of the Prime-time Repeats** by Stewart Wright. The 120-page book covers in detail the 64

so called "reruns" which are actually new productions of previously used Gunsmoke scripts. Cost is \$20 for this 2006 book and send to SW, 8120 W 26th Ave #17, Lakewood, CO 80214. You shouldn't be without this...also from McFarland; **Terror on the Air** by Richard Hand; 2006; 192 pages; \$45. Focuses on six representative programs of Horror radio but covers them all.

CONVENTIONS:

The Audio Theater Workshop, June 18 – 24, 2006; Southwest Missouri State University, West Plains, Missouri; Contact Sue Zizza, 115 Dikeman St., Hempstead, NY 11550; 516-483-8321 <natf.org>

REPS Radio Showcase XII, June 23 – 24, 2006; Contact Mike Sprague, Box 723, Bothell, WA 98041 (425) 488-9518 <HRRMIKES@aol.com>; also check web site: (www.repsonline.org)

31st Old-time Country and Bluegrass Contest and Festival, Aug 28 – Sep 3, 2006 at Harrison County Fairgrounds in Missouri Valley, Iowa. For information contact Bob Everhart at Box 492, Walnut, IA 51577 (712) 762-4363 <bobeverhart@yahoo.com>

Mid-Atlantic Nostalgia Convention, Sep 14 - 17, 2006 at Four Points Sheraton, Aberdeen, MD; ; Web site is www.midatlanticnostalgiaconvention.com; For information call Michelle or Martin at 77-456-6208;

31st Friends of Old-time Radio Convention, Oct 19 - 22, 2006 at the Holiday Inn, Newark, NJ; For information contact Jay Hickerson, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514 (203) 248-2887 <JayHick@aol.com> or check our web site: <http://www.fotr.net>

THE INTERNET: Many of my subscribers are on the Internet. If you want to get on the mailing list for the Old Time Radio Digest (Round table) on the Internet, e-mail to this address: <old.time.radio-request@oldradio.net>...

WEB SITES: Various OTR Web sites will be posted. Most begin with <www.> Let me know what yours is: **Lou Genco** (many collectors have their sites here including Vintage Broadcasts; Ted Davenport; Ed Carr; Fred Berney; Pat McCoy) <old-time.com>...**Jim Widner** <otr.com>...**Radio Days** is celebrating its 10th year on the web...**Chuck Schaden** <nostalgia Digest.com>... **BRC (Bob Burnham)** <brcradio.com>...**Ted Kneebone** <geocities.com/tkneebone1>...**Jerry Haendiges** <otrsite.com/radiolog/index.html>... **Australian Film and Sound** <Screensound.gov.au>...**Owens Pomeroy (Golden Radio Buffs) (not www)** <members.aol.com/grbmd>... **OTR Digest** <www.lofcom.com/nostalgia/books/>...**Jack Benny Fan Club** <Jackbenny.org>...**Radio Broadcast Chronicles** <gna.net/tia>...**Tom Heathwood** <HeritageRadio.com>... **First Generation Archives** <radioarchives.org> (Free subscription) <<http://www.radioarchives.org/newsletter.asp>>...**Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound** <repsonline.org>...**Terry Salomonson** <audio-classic.com> <digitalotr.com>...**The OTR Club** now has a web page at <<http://www2.pcom.net/robmcd/otrbuffalo/>>...**Doug Kosmonek** <<http://members.shaw.ca/douglkosmonek>>...new email is <douglkosmonek@shaw.ca>...**Radio Spirits** <radiospirits.com>...**The MWOTRC** web site is now operational and can be accessed either by www.mwotrc.com or www.readiorecall.com...**Radio Memories (NEW)** www.radiomemories.com...**Ivan G. Shreve, Jr. (Thrilling Days of Yesteryear)** <<http://blogs.salon.com/0003139/>>...**Bear Manor Media**, a publishing company (run by Ben Ohmart. Send for their catalog...They have published many OTR books in the last few years. <<http://www.bearmanormedia.com>>...**RHAC** web site is <www.rhac.org>...**Radio Days** is celebrating its 10th year on the web at <<http://www.otr.com>>...**Ron Sayles (births, deaths)** <http://mywebpage.netscape.com/bogusotr/instant/taz.html>.

CATALOGS AND NEW SHOWS (All addresses first): **McCoy's Recording** (Pat McCoy), Box 1069, Richland, WA 99352 (509) 627-4039...**Jerry Haendiges**, 13808 Sunset Dr., Whittier, CA 90602 <JHaendiges@aol.com>...**Vintage Broadcasts** (Andy Blatt), Box 3257, Milford, CT 06460 (203-783-1923); also 1-866-783-1923; <andy@vintagebroadcasts.com>...**Radio Memories** (Ted Davenport), 1600 Wewoka St., North Little Rock, AR 72116 (501) 835-0465 <tedotr@sbcglobal.net> (WEB) www.radiomemories.com....**Great American Radio (GAR)** (Garry Kramer), Box 504,

Genesee, MI 48437...**Bequaert Old Books**, Box 775, Fitzwilliam, NH 03447 (603) 585-3448
 <www.beqbooks.com>; send 2 34-cents stamps for a catalog of books and magazines on
 OTR...**AVPRO** (Don Aston), Box 1392, Lake Elsinore, CA 92531 (1-888-3328776)...**Redmond
 Nostalgia Co.** (David Kiner), Box 82, Redmond, WA 98073...**SPERDVAC Library** (Box 7177, Van
 Nuys, CA 91409)...**John Barber**, Box 72273., New Orleans, LA 70112 (504) 586-1931
 <jbarber@gno.lib.la.us>... **Vintage Audio** (Tom Martin), 461 Maple Ave., Saratoga Springs, NY
 12866 (518) 584-1112 <Thomasmartin245@aol.com>.....**Satellite Video Production** (Fred Berney)
 Box 638, Walkersville, MD 21793 (1-800-747-0856) <Berney@fred.net>...**BRC Productions** (Bob
 Burnham), Box 158, Dearborn, MI 48127 <platecap@brcradio.com> <www.brcradio.com>...**Hello
 Again Radio** (Bob Burchett), 10280 Gunpowder Rd., Florence, KY 41042...**Audio Classics Archive**
 (Terry Salomonson), Box 347, Howell, MI 48844; 1-877-653-8963 (for orders only) <audio-
 classic.com>...**Lodestone** (Richard Fish), 611 Empire Mill Rd., Bloomington, IN 47401; 1-800-411-
 6463 <lodestone-media.com> (Deals in New Audio Theater...**Ed Carr**, 216 Shaner St., Boyertown, PA
 19512 <edcarr@enter.net>...**Dan Riedstra**, 2830 North Rockwell St., Chicago, IL 60618
 <daniel.riedstra@wcom.com>...**Max Schmid**, Box 3449, Astoria, NY 11103 <mschmid@rcn.com>
 <www.oldtimeradio.com>...**Henry Hinkel**, 254 Florida Avenue, Amsterdam, NY 12010
 <www.crabapplesound.com>...Danean MacAndrew, P. O. Box 793, Lake Forest, CA, 92609
 <www.theradiolady.com>...**Heritage Radio Classics**; Tom Heathwood, Box 16, Boston, MA 02167
 <www.heritageaudio.com> Listen to the Heritage Radio Theatre every Sunday for one week streaming
 audio: <www.vintageRadioPlace.com/broadcast>...

All listings below list sampling of shows.

NEW FRIENDS AND RETURNEES: **Russ Byrne**, 10 Thornhill Rd., Cherry Hill, NJ
 08003...**Bert Rude, III**, 8611 Beechnut Ct., Ellicott City. MD 21043

OLD FRIENDS: **Durell Roth** looking for recording of the Treasury Star Parade of May
 1942. Titled "Chicago, Germany," written by Arch Oboler and starring Joan Blondell. Program number
 may be #59. Phone 512-329-6366 Address 902 Yaupon Valley Rd. Austin, TX 78746...**Roger Hill** now
 has email; <ROCKLINGEEZER@aol.com>

IN FOND MEMORY: **Burt Farber**, Aug 22, 2005; 92; Bandleader, composer, pianist
 (WLW)...**Frank Thomas**, May 11; 85; Much radio; best known for Tom Corbett; attended FOTR
 Conventions...**Cy Feuer**, May 17, 95; Broadway producer (composer - Escape; Ford Theater)

Hello Again is \$15 a year and is published 6 times a year. The first issue appeared in April of
 1970.

Write if you get work; and hang by your thumbs

JAY HICKERSON, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514
 (203) 248-2887; FAX (203) 281-1322
 e-mail: JayHick@aol.com

Web site: <http://www.old-time.com/sponsors/hickerson.html>

FOTR Web site: <http://www.fotr.net>

THE MID-ATLANTIC NOSTALGIA CONVENTION

by Michelle Vinje

On September 14 - 17, 2006, the small town of Aberdeen, Maryland will be host to the first annual Mid-Atlantic Nostalgia Convention. This convention will feature classic movies, antique cars, magicians, celebrities, and old-time radio. Holding a new convention is not something you do without a great deal of forethought. Martin Grams, who got the ball rolling for this event, admitted that the financial expense to put a convention on - especially his first - will be risky. So to garnish some attention, an "open door policy" was established for the subject matter presented at the convention.

"Anyone who wants to offer a presentation on a subject they feel strongly about are more than welcome," Mr. Grams said. "We actually have a teenager from upper New York state driving down to play some vintage animated cartoons from his 16 mm reel collection. I have a magician offering a fascinating introduction to Harry Houdini in American cinema, and an antique car club plans to bring in a display of their recent restorations. If someone called me up and said they wanted to do a presentation about Sky King on radio and television, I'd arrange for a time slot so they can do their presentation. The door is open for everyone."

Among the old-time radio related events scheduled for the weekend is Terry Salomonson discussing the history of The Green Hornet on radio. Ken Stockinger, a fan of baseball broadcasts from the Golden Age of Radio, will be revealing the importance of such broadcasts, for their historical appeal, and play excerpts from his private collection. Dan Riedstra will be offering a presentation about Cola Cola Spotlight Bands - a musical/variety program that aired over the radio and the subject of Dan's ongoing research. Michael Hayde's presentation about the history of the Grand Ole' Opry was well received at the Metropolitan Washington Old-Time Radio Club, so he will be reprising his talk for a larger audience at the convention. Neil Ellis will offer radio excerpts from his personal collection of JFK's Assassination news coverage. Karl Schadow plans to present a fascinating look at the invisible crime fighter, "The Shadow." Bill McMahon will give a presentation on radio premiums. Described by Mr. McMahon as a presentation that will feature various radio premiums and explain why they were offered to listeners. Typical radio premium offers will be analyzed, and some common radio premium myths will be discussed.

At least two radio recreations are planned. On Saturday afternoon, a group of radio actors will be presenting an "Amos n' Andy" radio recreation on stage. On Sunday evening, Charlie Summers, moderator of the Old-Time Radio Digest on-line, will be directing an original X-Minus One adapted from a 1950s short story. After Charlie's drama, Mr. Sunshine will be closing the evening dinner with a one-man vaudeville performance (which includes songs of the 1920s).

Authors of old-time radio will be attending as well. Jack French will discuss female detectives on radio (pitching his superb book "Private Eyelashes"). Derek Tague and Michael Hayde (author of "My Name's Friday") will also spend an hour playing various Dragnet spoofs, from Jack Webb's classic "Copper Clangers" skit to Rocky and Bullwinkle's "Tom, Tom, the Piper's Son." Jim Cox, who has written a number of old-time radio books, will also be a guest at the convention. Martin Grams will offer a presentation about Sam Spade on the radio, offering behind-the-scenes trivia about the

(side B)

program, from his up-coming book on "The Adventures of Sam Spade."

Although these presentations (and many others) deal with old-time radio, the convention is being billed as a "Nostalgia Convention." The purpose of the convention, according to Mr. Grams, is to expose Old-Time Radio to a market of people who otherwise would not attend a convention geared mainly toward OTR. "I enjoy attending old-time radio conventions and have admired how much time and effort everyone puts into the festivals to make them fun," Grams explained. "My father runs a magic convention every year and I am part of the staff, so I have an idea how much can be involved. But I do feel I need to return the favor by giving something meaningful to old-time radio fans. Last year I attended over 20 conventions and I found that while some conventions are run smoothly, others fail to capture the spirit of the convention altogether. I also noticed that there was a different kind of crowd for each type of convention I attended. One crowd only attended western film festivals, another crowd only went to the pulp conventions, and so on. I saw very little crossovers where the same people went to more than one type of convention."

"In response," Mr. Grams continued, "a few friends convinced me to put on a convention that includes a wide spectrum of nostalgic interests. A nostalgia convention. A weekend where people can watch a B-western movie in a movie room and later attend a panel about old-time radio western programs. Those who collect pulp magazines can enjoy a presentation about the history of pulps, and on the same day listen to a fascinating discussion about the SHADOW radio program. Exposing old-time radio to people who wouldn't think twice about attending such a convention is one way - at least I think so - of exposing them to how good the nostalgic radio programs still are today."

Even though Mr. Grams has plenty of support to keep the convention running smoothly, the financial expense isn't the only task Mr. Grams has to worry about. "The one thing I am hoping doesn't go around is the mentality that I am trying to compete against the already successful, established old-time radio conventions along the West and East Coast. I am putting on a nostalgia convention, not an OTR convention and there is a difference. And I am holding it during the only month where very little is going on anywhere else. Attendees can watch beach party movies in a movie room, checkout a classic car show exhibit, listen in on a variety of panels and all on the same day. Of course some old-time radio panels and recreations are tossed in among the events. I really love OTR and I couldn't possibly put on a convention without incorporating it into the schedule."

So will this daring move bring about an annual nostalgia convention? Mr. Grams and those helping him think so. Even if they do not break even from their first venture, they plan to try, and try again until they succeed. The hotel where the convention is being held (off Interstate 95) and the motel next door were already getting bookings before January 1st, and Mr. Grams admitted that early pre-registration signs are favorable. The attendance may exceed his expectations, proving that sometimes a little effort to bring back the good ol' days can keep the spirit of the past alive.

Anyone wanting further information (including guests and list of events) can consult the Convention web-site at <http://www.midatlanticnostalgiaconvention.com> or phone Martin direct at 717-456-6208.